

News and Notices

Organizations engaged in health physics and radiation protection are earnestly invited to send timely material to the Health Physics News Editor, R V Griffith, International Atomic Energy Agency, PO Box 100, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.

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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

The National Council for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) is made up of those in the United States who actively support development of a system for recognizing the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, and world-wide acceptance of their test and calibration reports. Since 1994, ACIL (formerly the American Council of Independent Laboratories), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have sponsored an informal Laboratory Accreditation Working Group (LA WG) to examine issues related to laboratory accreditation and recognition in the United States, and to suggest solutions aimed at developing a system for the United States. Concerned with multiple, duplicate assessments and the lack of domestic or international recognition of accreditations, the group explored solutions which could lead the United States toward the goal of one assessment per laboratory in a given field of testing (testing includes calibration for the purposes of this notice), using internationally accepted procedures that can be accepted by all who require (or need) laboratory accreditation. Note that the major concern was for electrical and calibrations other than radiation related at the January meeting. Development of a credible domestic system for laboratory accreditation must be compatible with international systems so that international recognition of the U.S. efforts is achievable.

LAWG solicited input and participation from all players in the process: laboratories, accreditors, industry, and government (federal, state and local), as well as input from those concerned with international trade issues. The working group agreed on a vision and principles for a system, and identified the needs and desires of the key players. This led to the open forum at NIST on January 7, 1997. Over 200 participants attended this meeting and they set up working committees to define the roles of the NACLA Secretariat, Operations Committee, and to look at how they will interact with international laboratory accreditation bodies. The success of the NACLA will be followed closely by all those CIRMS communities who have interests in laboratory accreditation. The January 7 meeting was attended by representatives on the NIST ionizing Radiation Division and a large group from the American

Association of Physicists in Medicine, led by Geoffrey Ibbott, Chairman of the Accredited Dosimetry Calibration Laboratory Subcommittee. For further information on NACLA, readers should contact Belinda Collins at NIST (bcollins@nist.gov).

Information: Katy Nardi, Executive Secretary, CIRMS, PO Box 1238, Duluth, GA 30136, USA. Tel. 770-622-0026. Email. katynardi@aol.com

NCRP ELECTION RESULTS

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) announced today the results of the regular membership elections which took place at its 1997 Annual Meeting on April 3, 1997. The newly elected members are:

John Graham, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts

Raymond Guilmette, Inhalation and Toxicology Research Institute Albuquerque, New Mexico

Geoffrey Howe, Columbia University, New York, New York

R. Julian Preston, Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Louise Strong, M.D. Anderson Hospital, Houston, Texas

J. Frank Wilson, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Susan Wiltshire, J.K. Research Associates, Beverly, Massachusetts

Re-elected members are:

John D. Boice, Jr., International Epidemiology Institute, Rockville, Maryland

Antone Brooks, Washington State University -
Tricities, Richland, Washington

E. Gail de Planque, Potomac, Maryland

William R. Hendee, Medical College of
Wisconsin

John B. Little, Harvard University School of
Public Health

Information: W. Roger Ney, Executive Director, The
National Council on Radiation Protection and
Measurements, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 800,
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3095, USA. Tel.(301) 657-2652.
Fax. (301) 907-8768.

IAEA RADIATION AND WASTE SAFETY WEB SITE

As part of the development of the World Wide
Web the IAEA is expanding an area of its site of particular
interest to Health Physicists. The Division of Radiation and
Waste Safety in the Nuclear Safety Department has spent
some time putting together a sub-site of TECATOM to be
known as RASANET which the Division Director, Abel
Gonzalez, intends to become one of the main Internet
resource centers for reliable information not only on the
IAEA activities but on the topics of Radiation Protection
and the Safety of Radioactive Waste. The site is accessible
from the WORLDATOM site of the IAEA.

Much of the information in RASANET, as would
be expected, concerns the programmes and work of the
IAEA. In particular there is a section describing the
functions, organization, staffing and funding of the Division
of Radiation and Waste Safety. Of direct use to many
people concerned with the development and application of
International Safety Standards is a substantial section
describing the process of development of the IAEA
Standards in this area. This is complemented by a section
that will be updated every three months describing the
current progress of work on the development of standards
and other supporting documents, on research programmes,
on assistance to developing Member States and all active
projects in the Divisions programme of work. Within this
there is an updated list of working meetings and the status
of all safety documents being developed or under revision.
A list of major meetings and Conferences is also available
together with a listing of non-IAEA meetings related to
radiation and waste safety.

Another area contains more comprehensive
coverage of special projects being undertaken by the IAEA

such as the assessment of the radiological situation at
Mururoa and Fangataufa Atolls following the French
Nuclear Weapons Test Programme. The various
Conventions being developed with assistance from the
IAEA have their own area including the latest situation
regarding the new Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent
Fuel Management and the safety of radioactive waste
management.

Finally a start has been made on two areas
intended to become a general resource in the topic. One
contains or links to basic data from the Chart of the
Nuclides to the latest Values of Dose per Unit Intake for a
large selection of radionuclides. The other will document
the basis for Radiation Safety Standards with links to other
International sites as they become available.

The IAEA, as with all new site owners, will
welcome feedback, criticism, suggestions or even
commendation from visitors to the new site.

Note: The URL for RASANET had not been issued in
time for this issue. Please check the August issue for the
Web site address.

Information: Malcolm Crick, International Atomic Energy
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1996 NUCLEAR POWER STATUS

A total of 442 nuclear power plants were operating
around the world in 1996, based on data reported to the
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Power
Reactor Information System (PRIS). During 1996, five
nuclear power plants representing 5717 MW(e) net electric
capacity were connected to the grid in France, Japan (2),
Romania and USA. In April 1997, one more reactor,
Wolsong 2 in the Republic of Korea, 650 MW(e) was
connected to the grid, so that the actual figure of operating
reactors in the world to date is 443.

Additionally, construction of three new nuclear
reactors started in 1996 - two at Qinshan in China, and one
at Onagawa in Japan - bringing the total number of nuclear
reactors reported as being under construction to 36 in 14
countries.

Nuclear power's share of electricity production
remained high in 1996, in nine countries: Lithuania, 83.4%;
France, 77.4%; Belgium, 57.2%; Sweden, 52.4%; Slovak
Republic, 44.5%; Switzerland, 44.5%; Ukraine, 43.8%;
Bulgaria, 42.4%; Hungary, 40.8%. All in all, 17 countries
and Taiwan, China relied upon nuclear power plants to
supply at least a quarter of their total electricity needs.

Worldwide in 1996, total nuclear generated electricity grew to 2300 Terawatt-hours. This is more than the world's total electricity generation - 1912 Terawatt-hours - from all sources in 1958. Overall nuclear power plants provided approximately 17 percent of the world's electricity production in 1996. Cumulative worldwide operating experience from civil nuclear reactors at the end of 1996 was over 8135 years.

Information: Public Information Section, IAEA, PO Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. Fax. (43) 1-20607.

ALARA NOTES ON-LINE

We have a great deal of material that we wished to bring to the attention of our readers. Unfortunately, it costs us a lot to produce and distribute each issue of ALARA Notes. In these times of meager budgets the cost has been just too high. We have come up with two very good solutions which are in accord with the trend of the times. Both solutions let users obtain ALARA Notes through two on-line systems.

The first system is our tried and true ACEFAX system. The user dials (516)344-7361 from a fax machine, then listens to the voice prompt on the handset. When requested for the file you wish to receive, punch the number 10 on the fax machine dialing pad. When you are prompted by the voice, press the "START/COPY" or "SEND/RECEIVE" button on your fax machine. You may then hang up the phone. You will begin to receive ALARA Notes within a minute.

The second option is to use the information superhighway, the worldwide web of the internet. Use the URL <http://www.dne.bnl.gov/alara/brochure/htm> to get to the home page of the ALARA Center. Then select ALARA Notes from the offerings. Finally select the latest issue or the issue of interest.

This new approach will hopefully reach most of our readers and will reduce costs. If you have any information on an ALARA related topic or would like to contribute a small item to ALARA Notes, please send your contribution to: Dr. Tasneem Khan, Executive Manager, ALARA Center, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Building 703M, P.O. Box 5000, Upton, NY 11973-5000 USA

MIGRATION IS NOT ONLY FOR GEESE

The buzz word at the IAEA these days is "migration"! We don't just switch, anymore. We *migrate*. We have just finished *migrating* from MS Mail to Microsoft Exchange. This means we have *migrated* to new Email

addresses. My new Email address is: R.Griffith@iaea.org

Our next *migration* will be from Wordperfect to MS Word. Won't that be *speeeecial*?! Maybe this is a bit too much for us older or, as we say now, *chronologically challenged* people!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Publishers are invited to send pertinent material for review in the journal directly to the Book Editor.

Deposition, Retention and Dosimetry of Inhaled Radioactive Substances, NCRP Report No. 125, 1997, 253 pp. National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 800, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3095, USA. Tel.(301) 657-2652. Fax. (301) 907-8768.

Radon in Dwellings in England: 1997 Review, 1997, 48 pp, National Radiological Protection Board, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0RQ, UK

The Use of Plane Parallel Ionization Chambers in High Energy Electron and Photon Beams: An International Code of Practice for Dosimetry, Technical Report Series No. 381, 1997, 125 pp, International Atomic Energy Agency, Sales and Promotion Unit, Division of Publications, P.O. Box 100, Wagramerstrasse 5, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSES

Institutions offering appropriate courses are invited to send prospectuses to the News Editor well in advance. Fax numbers for information are given.

HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In-Place Filter Testing Workshop, August 18-22, 1997.

Nuclear Emergency Planning, August 19-22, 1997.

Occupational and Environmental Radiation Protection, August 11-15, 1997.

Industrial Ergonomics: Human Factors in Occupational Health and Safety, September 15-19, 1997.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Information: Harvard School of Public Health, Center for Continuing Education, 677 Huntington Ave., LL-23, Dept. B, Boston, MA 02115-6096, USA. Fax. 617-432-1969. Tel. 617-432-1171. Email. contedu@sph.harvard.edu

IAEA

Interregional Training Course on Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials, Jul 7 to 25, 1997. Argonne, Illinois, USA

Interregional Training Course on Nuclear Medicine for Technologists, Jul 8 to Aug 1, 1997. Sydney, Australia

Interregional Training Course on Nuclear Measurement Techniques in Environmental Research and Monitoring, Sep 8 to Oct 10, 1997, Argonne, Illinois, USA

Information: IAEA Training Courses Section, PO Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. Fax. +43-1-20607. Tel. +43-1-2060 22386. Email. iaeo@iaea1.iaea.or.at

SCK-CEN

Second Training Course on Assessment of Doses from Occupational Intakes of Radionuclides, 6-10 October, 1997.

Information: C. Hurtgen, SCK-CEN, Boeretang 200, B-2400 Mol, Belgium. Fax. +32-14-321051. Tel. +32-14-332831.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

Organizers of relevant meetings are invited to send announcements and calls for papers to the News Editor well in advance. Societies may also submit forward schedules. A list of meetings is maintained with the journal issue in which a notice appeared in brackets.

PBNC 98 11TH PACIFIC BASIN NUCLEAR CONFERENCE BANFF, CANADA MAY 3-7, 1998

The 11th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference provides an excellent opportunity for the exchange of views on a variety of industry-related topics relevant to the

conference theme, "International Co-operation in the Pacific Rim for the 21st Century".

A series of plenary sessions and panel discussions will focus on the advantages, needs and issues associated with international co-operation based on the following main topics. These topics will be further developed in parallel sessions, with titles to be selected from the list of sub-topics.

The parallel session topics include:

- * Financing and Economics
- * Safety Practices and Regulation
- * Environmental and Resource Sustainability
- * Operations and Maintenance
- * Industry Infrastructure
- * Public Information and Understanding
- * Nuclear Technology

Information: PBNC '98 Technical Program Committee, 567 Roy Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 6R6 Canada. Fax. (613) 732-3386. Tel. (613) 732-7068. Email. confer@pbnc98.com